

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY TANANARIVE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6606

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L TANANARIVE 1508

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MA, ID, MY

SUBJECT: INDONESIA, MALAYSIA AND MADAGASCAR

REF: TANANARIVE 1500 (NOTAL)

BEGIN SUMMARY: BELIEVE INDONESIA AND MALAYSIA COULD FAVORABLY INFLUENCE MADAGASCAR ON INTERNATIONAL ISSUES SUCH AS KHMER REPRESENTATION AND ADMISSION OF PRG TO INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS. IF FEASIBLE, PERHAPS START COULD BE MADE BY HAVING FOREIGN MINISTER MALIK (IF STILL IN NEW YORK) OR OTHER HIGH-RANKING INDONESIAN APPROACH FOREIGN MINISTER RATSIRAKA. LATTER WOULD PROBABLY ALSO BE RESPONSIVE TO INVITATION TO VISIT INDONESIA AND MALAYSIA. END SUMMARY.

1. WE BELIEVE THAT INDONESIA AND MALAYSIA OFFER POSSIBILITY OF EXERTION OF MODERATING INFLUENCE ON FOREIGN POLICY OF MADAGASCAR IN INTERNATION FORA, NOTABLY ON ISSUES OF KHMER REPRESENTATION AND ADMISSION OF PRG OF SOUTH VIET-NAM. THIS SUGGESTION BASED ON ASSUMPTION INDONESIA AND MALASIA AGREE WITH U.S. POSITION ON THESE TWO ISSUES.

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2. SEVERAL FACTORS COULD BE BROUGHT INTO PLAY IN ANY EFFORTS

BY INDONESIA AND MALAYSIA TO INFLUENCE MADAGASCAR:

(A) MANY MALAGASY TRACE THEIR ETHNIC AND CULTURAL ORIGINS TO MALAY-INDONESIAN PEOPLES AND THUS FEEL SENTIMENTAL AFFINITY TO THEM.

(B) WITH PRESENT GOMR'S FOREIGN POLICY OF "OPENING OUT IN ALL DIRECTIONS," IT WOULD BE QUITE NATURAL FOR RELATIONS TO BEGIN TO DEVELOP WITH INDONESIA AND MALAYSIA. (WHILE MALAGASY POLICY HAS MAINLY LED TO ESTABLISHMENT DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH COMMUNIST COUNTRIES AND RADICAL STATES LIKE GUINEA AND TANZANIA, MOST RECENT EXAMPLE HAS BEEN AUSTRALIA -- AT GOMR'S INITIATIVE.)

(C) SINCE MALAGASY FOREIGN MINISTRY OFTEN STATES IT HAS TO HEED VIEWS OF NON-ALIGNED IN REACHING POSITION ON ISSUES IN INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, INDONESIA AND MALAYSIA CAN PRESENT THEMSELVES AS IMPORTANT NON-ALIGNED STATES (THUS DEMONSTRATING TO MALAGASY THAT ALGERIA DOES NOT REPRESENT ONLY NON-ALIGNED VIEW).

3. WE WOULD SUGGEST THREE LEVELS AT WHICH INDONESIAN AND MALAYSIAN INFLUENCE COULD BE BROUGHT TO BEAR:

(A) IN INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS BY THEIR DELEGATIONS. THUS, IN VIEW INDONESIAN FOREIGNH ENISTER MALIK'S STRONG STANCE ON KHMER ISSUE AT UNGA LAST WEEK, PERHAPS INDONESIAN DELEGATION AT UN WOULD BE PREPARED TAKE INITIAL STEP WITH MALAGASY DELEGATION. IF FEASIBLE, APPROACH BY MALIK TO MALAGASY FOREIGN MINISTER RATSIRAKA IN NEW YORK COULD OFFER BEST CHANCE OF SUCCESS.

(B) BY INVITING RATSIRAKA TO VISIT INDONESIA AND MALAYSIA. RATSIRAKA SEEMS LOVE TO BE ON MOVE ABROAD, AND WOULD BE LIKELY ACCEPT.

(C) BY ESTABLISHING DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH MADAGASCAR THROUGH ACCREDITATION OF NON-RESIDENT AMBASSADOR FROM SOME NEARBY AFRICAN POST, AS MANY OTHER COUNTRIES HAVE DONE. (WE BELIEVE GOMR LIKELY WELCOME SUCH STEP AS PROVIDING SOME CONFIDENTIAL

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PUBLIC COUNTERBALANCE TO EXTENSIVE RECENT ESTABLISHMENT OF RELATIONS WITH COMMUNIST AND RADICAL NON-ALIGNED COUNTRIES.) MENDENHALL

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